

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00
BIB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 H-01 OES-06 NASA-01 /050 W
-----042251Z 058215 /61

R 291826Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2960
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REF NUMBER)

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, CA
SUBJECT: AEROSAT

REF: STATE 49950

1. FOOTE (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER IN TRANSPORT,
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY DIVISION, EXTAFF) RAISED
AEROSAT QUESTION WITH TCO MARCH 28. SAID CANADIAN
EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD BEEN FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL
SITUATION CLOSELY AND OTTAWA WAS NOT RPT NOT SURPRISED
BY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION NOT TO AUTHORIZE AEROSAT
PROGRAM. EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US ADMINISTRATION WILL
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ATTEMPT KEEP PROJECT ALIVE. SAID FULL-SCALE PULLOUT
WOULD BE DAMAGING TO US COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION
WITH CANADA AND WITH ESA. HE READILY ADMITTED THAT
GOC STATUS--WITH ONLY A 6 PERCENT CAPITAL COMMITMENT--
IS RELATIVELY MINOR, SO CANADA WILL NOT BE MAKING
MAJOR NOISE ABOUT QUESTION. MAJOR INTEREST APPEARS
TO BE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS WHICH CANADIAN

INDUSTRY WAS EXPECTED TO OBTAIN.

2. FOOTE ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US WOULD SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF MAY 3-4 AEROSAT COUNCIL MEETING IN SPAIN. CANADA HOPES THAT POSTPONEMENT WILL NOT BE SO LONG AS TO LEAVE SITUATION IN LIMBO. A SHORT DELAY IN THE MEETING WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM, BUT CANADA HOPES AVOID MAJOR POSTPONEMENT OF SESSION AND ANY EFFORT TO RENEGOTIATE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. SAID THERE IS NEED TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED AND IS REFLECTED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. CANADA IS LOOKING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO KEEP THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT ALIVE.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANY COMMENTS ON THIS QUESTION FROM TRANSPORT OR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS AND SUSPECT THIS EXTAFF INITIATIVE WAS STIMULATED BY DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE WHICH MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT AEROSAT PROCUREMENT IN CANADA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF DEPARTMENT WOULD BRING US UP TO DATE ON AEROSAT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE DRAFTING OF REFTEL AND WHAT ADMINISTRATION'S CURRENT OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA ARE. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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